

and restore the social, cultural, economic, and natural resource bases in their community. Mr. Speaker, after personally viewing this group in action, I am happy to report this is a successful endeavor.

The KVRI membership consists of private citizens and landowners, local governments, federal and state agencies, an environmental advocacy group, and Indian Nation, and representatives of business and industry within the lower Kootenai basin of Idaho. The Initiative is a sign of tremendous change in Boundary County. It signals a move from combat to collaboration and should serve as a model for other communities around the country with severe contention over natural resource issues. The members of the KVRI work hard to find areas of common concern with which they, as a community, can pursue solutions to challenges such as fisheries recovery, flood flow elevations, TMDL planning, and the development of a wetland conservation strategy.

Mr. Speaker, the collaborative spirit of the KVRI, and its members' determination to find common sense solutions that move the community forward, should serve as an inspiration to us all. I would like to thank the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative for demonstrating how this great experiment in democracy is supposed to function.

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TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOHN  
BENNETT

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**  
OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of former Grand Junction Mayor John Bennett, who after a long battle with an illness, passed away at the age of sixty-six. John was a true American patriot, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his Colorado community. In his years spent in public

service, John embodied the ideals of integrity and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community, state and country.

Mayor Bennett lived an immensely rich and full life, always holding firm to his beliefs in serving his community and country. He spent over twenty years defending this Nation, serving in the Air Force and the Army, where he earned a reputation as a solid and dependable leader. After his retirement, John continued to feel a call to service and dedicated his efforts toward improving the lives of his Grand Junction community. He served as a member of the Grand Junction City Council, and was elected mayor in 1988, where he was known for his judiciousness and problem-solving skills.

Mr. Speaker, we are all at a great loss because of Mayor Bennett's passing, but can be comforted in knowing he helped make Grand Junction a better place for future generations. I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his wife of over twenty years, Barbara, and his loving children, Tammy, Vicki, and William. Mayor Bennett's selfless dedication to Grand Junction, the State of Colorado, and the United States has helped ensure a promising future for our great country and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family, community, and Nation.

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HONORING BERNICE FELDMAN  
MAYERS

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**  
OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
*Tuesday, February 24, 2004*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the contributions of Bernice

Feldman Mayers of Dallas, Texas, and am pleased to be joined in this tribute by my colleague, Representative WEXLER of Florida. Mrs. Mayers was not only a dedicated teacher of special-needs students, but shares the distinction of being related to two members of the South Florida delegation—Congressman WEXLER and myself. She leaves behind a wonderful legacy of warmth, dedication and caring.

Born in the Bronx, New York, Mrs. Mayers moved with her family to Dallas, Texas, at the age of five. She graduated from Forest Avenue High School at the age of 15 and received her bachelor's degree in social work from the University of Oklahoma at the age of 19. Following graduation, Mrs. Mayers began to volunteer for a number of organizations including the City of Hope, a cancer research center. Mrs. Mayers also served as the president of the Dallas Chapter, where she coordinated the first ever cancer research study in the Dallas area.

After receiving her master's degree in special education from Texas Women's University in 1967, Mrs. Mayers began her teaching career with Sam Houston Junior High School. She served as the head of the school's special education department, well-known as a fierce advocate for students with special needs. Mrs. Mayers retired in 1992, but she continued to work as both a substitute teacher and as a Hebrew teacher at Congregation Beth Torah. She also committed her energies to Forest Avenue Alumni Association and the Tom C. Gooch Elementary School in Dallas.

Mrs. Mayers is survived by her husband, two sons, four grandchildren and numerous friends and extended family, all who will miss her greatly.